

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Original): A polarizer composed of a film comprising a structure in which fine metallic particles is dispersed in a polymer matrix,
wherein a polymer forming the polymer matrix is a translucent polymer having a transmittance of 88% or more when measured thereof with a thickness of 1 mm and the film is uniaxially stretched.
2. (Original): The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein a domain formed with fine metallic particles has an average particle diameter of 100 nm or less and an aspect ratio (a ratio of a maximum length/a minimum length) of 2 or less.
3. (Currently amended): A fabrication method for the polarizer according to claim 1 [[or 2]], comprising steps of: forming a film with a mixed solution comprising fine metallic particles obtained by dispersing fine metallic particles in a solution containing a translucent polymer having a transmittance of 88% or more when measured thereof with a thickness of 1 mm and thereafter, uniaxially stretching the film.
4. (Original): A polarizer in which fine metallic particles is dispersed in a matrix formed with a liquid crystalline material.
5. (Original): The polarizer according to claim 4, wherein the liquid crystalline material is uniaxially aligned.

6. (Currently amended): The polarizer according to claim 4 [[or 5]], wherein the liquid crystalline material is a liquid crystal polymer.

7. (Currently amended): The fabrication method for the polarizer according to ~~any of claims 4 to 6~~ Claim 4, comprising step of: forming a film with a mixed solution obtained by dispersing fine metallic particles in a solution containing a liquid crystalline material.

8. (Original): A polarizer having an absorption spectrum with an absorption peak at a given wavelength, measured when polarized light incidences thereon,

wherein if an azimuth of an incident polarization plane is altered relative to the polarizer, the absorption peak wavelength shifts in accordance with an alteration in the azimuth.

9. (Original): A polarizer in which in a case where an azimuth of the incident polarization plane relative to the polarizer is altered, if an azimuth of the incident polarization plane is 0 degree when an absorption peak wavelength of an absorption spectrum that is measured is the longest wavelength, which is referred to as λ_1 , by definition,

if an azimuth of the polarization plane is gradually increased from 0 degree, a value of the absorption peak wavelength shifts to the short wavelength side in accordance with the increase and

when an azimuth of the incident polarization plane is 90 degrees, a value of the absorption peak wavelength is the shortest wavelength, which is referred to as λ_2 , by definition.

10. (Original): The polarizer according to claim 9, satisfying a relation of $(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) = 10 \text{ to } 50 \text{ nm}$.

11. (Currently amended): The polarizer according to ~~any of claims 8 to 10~~ claim 8, the polarizer is a film in which fine metallic particles is dispersed in an organic matrix having a birefringence in the film plane.

12. (Original): The polarizer according to claim 11, wherein the organic matrix is formed with a polymer matrix, a polymer forming the polymer matrix is a translucent polymer having a transmittance of 88% or more when measured thereof with a thickness of 1 mm, and the film is a uniaxially stretched.

13. (Original): The polarizer according to claim 11, wherein the organic matrix is formed with a liquid crystalline material.

14. (Original): The polarizer according to claim 13, wherein the liquid crystalline material is uniaxially aligned.

15. (Currently amended): The polarizer according to claim 13 ~~[[or 14]]~~, wherein the liquid crystalline material is a liquid crystal polymer.

16. (Currently amended): The polarizer according to ~~any of claims 11 to 15~~ claim 11, wherein a domain formed with fine metallic particles has an average particle diameter of 100 nm or less and an aspect ratio (a maximum length/a minimum length) is 2 or less.

17. (Currently amended): A polarizing plate in which a transparent protective layer is provided on at least one surface of the polarizer according to ~~any of claims 1, 2, 4 to 6 and 8 to 16~~ claim 1.

18. (Currently amended): An optical film comprising ~~at least one~~ polarizer according to ~~any of claims 1, 2, 4 to 6 and 8 to 16 or the polarizing plate according to claim 17 as a laminate~~ claim 1.

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19. (Currently amended): An image display comprising ~~at least one polarizer according to any of claims 1, 2, 4 to 6 and 8 to 16, the polarizing plate according to claim 17 or the optical film according to claim 18~~ claim 1.

20. (New): An optical film comprising the polarizing plate according to claim 17 as a laminate.

21. (New): An image display comprising the polarizing plate according to claim 17.

22. (New): An image display comprising the optical film according to claim 18.